

BOTSWANA

Summary of Bankable Investment Project Profile – Volume II of VII

Pandamatenga Commercial Arable Farms Infrastructure Development Project

Estimated Cost: US\$65.36 m

Project Duration: 3 years

Rationale. With a fertile soil and a rainfall of 600 mm in a year Pandamatenga is one of the most suitable areas for dry land crop production in Botswana. With the view to exploiting this potential 50 commercial arable farms, each with a size of 500 ha, were developed on 25,000 ha of land. The objective of the development was to boost local production as part of the national drive to achieve self sufficiency in cereal grain production. The farms however, did not succeed very well in contributing to the realization of the goal because of low productivity. At the planning stage the farms were projected to yield 1.7 to 1.9 metric tons per hectare. Actual yield, however, ranged only from 0.5 to 1.4 mt/ha. Although the actual yield of the farms is lower than the projected ones, it is still quite high compared to the national average of 0.3 mt/ha. As a number of studies that assessed the performance of the farms showed the main obstacles to achieving satisfactory yields on the farms were the frequent flooding of the farms and the lack of all weather road net works within the farms.

Project Objectives. The objective of the project is to remove the major constraints to increase the productivity of the commercial farms through the provisions of drainage systems and the construction of an all weather internal road net works. The removal of the constraints with improvements in farm management's practices is projected to increase yields from 1.5 to 4 mt/ha. This will help the country reduce its heavy dependence on grain imports. It will also generate additional employment opportunities and also pave the way for the development of agro-industries. The project is, thus, targeted to contribute towards the goals of improving food security situations at household and national levels and also alleviating poverty.

Project Area: Pandamatenga area (North-eastern Botswana), in two lacustrine plains — the Central and Southern plains — over about 25,000 ha.

Project Components and Main Activities:

- *Construction of a road network of about 160 km;*
- *Construction of a drainage system;*